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To:

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cc:

Subject: Yucca Mountain

LSN: Relevant - Not Privileged User Filed as: Excl/AdminMgmt-14-4/QA:N/A

Yucca Mountain is sacred to the Shoshone as an herb gathering site and for rituals.

The desecration of that land by putting nuclear waste in it is not acceptable. It is within the treaty lands of the Western Shoshone nation ratified by Congress in 1863 and recently upheld by the UN Committee to End Racial Discrimination who name the Yucca Mountain Waste Disposal Project as part of ongoing human rights violation against the Western Shoshone.

In addition, when rain does come in that area, it is often in flash floods that travel rapidly. Any escaping radionuclides that reach the surface can travel down the Amargosa River channel. Obviously, that is VERY hazardous to the people. Groundwater beneath Yucca Mountain flows into a closed hydrogeologic basin. This basin covers thousands of square miles and is inhabited by many communities, the Timbisha Shoshone Tribe, and Death Valley National Park which is visited by about 1 million visitors a year, all of whom rely on groundwater for survival.

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My people have been robbed, murdered, and raped at the hands of the system for hundreds of years. Countless treaties have been made and promises detremental to the basic survival of mine have not been fulfilled. It's got to stop. Yucca Mountain is on "Indian" Land and dumping nuclear waste there will have a negative effect on many lives. Honor that as you should.

M. Quiroz

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